UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.157/PC/46/Add.6
14 September 1992

Original: ENGLISH

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Preparatory Committee
Third session
Geneva, 14-18 September 1992
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE AND DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE FINAL OUTCOME

Recommendations concerning the provisional agenda of the World Conference on Human Rights and its preparation submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 45/155

Report of the Secretary-General

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Pathways to Peace

Coalition for Children of the Earth

GE.92-14047/0902K (E)

CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. The Children's Conference on Human Rights, sponsored by the Coalition for Children of the Earth, met near Geneva, Switzerland, from 27 August to 2 September 1992. During the first five days of the Conference, the 82 children from 33 countries met in plenary sessions and work groups to discuss the United Nations system, with specific focus on human rights issues and the rights of the child, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Using skills of building cooperation and consensus, the children reached conclusions which were presented at the United Nations in Geneva on the final day of their conference to a panel of United Nations experts on human rights. The panel included, among others, Mr. Antoine Blanca, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr. Ibrahima Fall, Director, Centre for Human Rights, and Mrs. Erika-Irene A. Daes, Chairperson of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations. The presentation was followed by a press conference.

2. The conclusions of the children are as follows: (a) that the issue of human rights should be made more visible, (b) that more action should be taken to implement and monitor human rights instruments, including instruments dealing with the rights of the child, and that children themselves should become active in this process, (c) that forums should be created where children can dialogue with each other on a global level and articulate their concerns to world decision makers, and (d) that, as an immediate action, children's rights should be placed on the agenda of the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights to be held in Vienna in June 1993 and that children, through selected representatives, should participate in the Conference, both in official proceedings and in a parallel conference of children.

3. In furtherance of these goals and mindful that the session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights is being held at the United Nations in Geneva from 14-18 September 1992 to set the Conference agenda for Vienna, the following proposals are submitted for consideration:

(a) That the World Conference focus on human rights issues affecting children. Children should be a separate sector as are women, indigenous peoples, etc. It may be deemed appropriate to have a separate sector for youth due to the potential voicing of different priorities by youth who have reached university level;

(b) That the Conference address follow-up activities to and monitoring of existing United Nations instruments dealing with the rights of the child, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Declaration and Plan of Action arising out of the World Summit for Children in 1990;

(c) That children be included in governmental, regional and NGO preparatory activities for the Conference;

(d) That children be included on governmental and NGO delegations to the Conference;

(e) That the substantive voices of the rising generation be heard at the Conference, specifically that a representative or representatives of children be invited to address the Conference at its plenary session in Vienna. The voices of children serve to alert decision makers to children's priorities, to inspire leaders to action, and to make them aware that they are accountable to the rising generation for the decisions they make which affect the future of the planet;

(f) That the Conference establish ways for children to participate and cooperate with the United Nations, with the Centre for Human Rights and with adults to further the goals of the World Conference, including but not limited to guidance as to how children can assist in the monitoring of progress on rights of the child instruments and plans of action in their respective countries;

(g) That the Conference give consideration to the inclusion of children as advisers to appropriate United Nations committees, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child;

(h) That the Conference give consideration to the advisability of the creation of future forums where the voices of children can be heard on global issues such as human rights, including but not limited to (a) a World Summit of Children (not "for" but "of") in 1995 at the time of the gathering of world leaders for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and (b) a Global Assembly or Parliament of Youth and Children to be established and convened on a regular basis.